

# Mr. Romanoff and Family in Exile

Intimate View of Life of Former Royal Family of Russia in Siberian Home



NICHOLAS ROMANOFF

By IVAN NARODNY  
In Philadelphia Public Ledger.

IT WAS as a measure of safety for the life of the dethroned czar and his family that the Russian government authorities decided that the former ruler and his family be sent to Tobolsk, Siberia, till the constituent assembly could determine how best to solve the problem of their future.

Kerensky was then premier, and it fell upon him to deliver the fateful decision as politely as possible. He called personally at the palace of Tsarskoe-Selo and gave twenty-four hours to the royal exiles to pack their trunks and make themselves ready for their journey. The ex-czar turned white and stammered in answer to Kerensky:

"If it is God's and the people's will we shall obey."

A day thereafter the premier again called on the ex-czar and informed him that the train which was to take him and his family to Siberia was ready. In four closed automobiles, guarded by a company of Cossacks, the royal exiles left their stately residence and drove to the railway station, where they were met by Baron Fredericks, the former minister of the court; General Voyekoff, the former commander of the palace, and Countess Naryshkin, the former lady in waiting to the czarina. These were to follow their former masters to Siberia.

The baggage consisted of fifteen trunks and a few suitcases or handbags. These were carried into the car by the two loyal servants and the family members themselves. A dead silence prevailed on the platform when the once feared and respected ruler walked to his car. Premier Kerensky held his arm. Vice Premier Nekrassov accompanied the ex-czarina. It was a heavy and painful moment, a moment full of depressing thoughts.

Seldom, if ever, in history has there been a more complete change in human fortunes than that which Nicholas Romanoff has suddenly undergone. From a household expenditure of \$12,000,000 a year he has now been reduced to about \$3,000 a year. From having twenty palaces at his command he was at first cut down to an eight-room flat in an old Siberian municipal building. From being the most powerful autocrat of all the Russias he became suddenly plain Mr. Nicholas Alexandrovich Romanoff, Siberian exile.

I have succeeded in receiving considerable details concerning the ex-czar's manner of life and views at Tobolsk. It is only a short while ago that he was permitted to move from the small flat into the monastery. Here he is now occupying a small room in the house of the archimandrite, while the ex-czarina occupies another room in an adjoining building. Though apparently free, the ex-czar and his family are really exiles, guarded carefully by the soldiers over whom he used to possess a command of life and death.

In this dreary town of 45,000 inhabitants the ex-czar and his family have remained the chief objects of interest. While a special attention had been paid by the guards to him and the ex-czarina, the daughters are free to come and go as they please, and from them the townspeople have learned a great deal about the household and life of their dethroned rulers.

The residence determined for the ex-czar consisted of eight rooms of the second floor of the former governor's house at Tobolsk. It is a rather roomy house, built in the stately style of Russian institutions, of brick in white stucco, with a sloping green roof. It is not situated in the aristocratic quarter of the city, which lies on higher ground on the farther side of the Tobol river. The lower floor was occupied by the guarding officers, who had been specially selected on account of their loyalty to the revolutionary cause.

Nicholas and the former czarina occupied a room each and two rooms were put aside for the daughters and the son Alexis, the former heir apparent. There were a dining room, a wide kitchen and a general sitting room, and the rest of the flat was given over to the servants. The revolutionary government allowed three servants, a butler and two maids.

Contrast these quarters with those the Romanoffs formerly enjoyed at Tsarskoe-Selo, Peterhof, at the Winter and Anichkova palaces in Petrograd, at Livadia, in Gatchina and the twenty-odd palaces they possessed. The Peterhof palace was so large that a person could lose himself in it, and 200 servants were employed solely to steer guests through it. The Hall of Mirrors in the Winter palace at Petrograd is 200 feet in length and is con-



ALEXIS ROMANOFF



FORMER CZARINA AND HER DAUGHTERS

ONE OF TWENTY GREAT PALACES FORMERLY OCCUPIED BY CZAR

All the daughters of the former czar have plenty of money at their disposal, as they have been allowed to retain the possession of the cash they had before the revolution as well as the jewels which they possessed individually.

Olga, who is the most serious member of the family, is a volunteer nurse in the local military hospital, where she spends five hours every day. Tatiana's occupations were more indefinite, as she is a girl who likes more the social side of life and therefore made the largest number of friends in this Siberian town. All the Romanoff girls mix freely with the ordinary citizens of Tobolsk. They often go to the Municipal theater, and on these occasions they sit down in the lobby, which serves the purpose of the French cafe as a social meeting place. They also go to large tea parties in the town, sell at the booths of the charity bazaars and attend luncheons at the Merchants' club. They are members of the Woman's club and the Red Cross society of the town. They are also frequent visitors at all the radical meetings and lectures in Tobolsk.

A rather interesting change has taken place with the former heir apparent, little Alexis, known to his family and friends as "Alosha." From the monarchical point of view he is more important than all the girls put together. He has become very democratic and enjoys the banishment. He is allowed to go out and play in the public park as long as he pleases, but he is watched all the time, because he might be used by conspirators in an attempt to restore the monarchy.

It is interesting to know that little Alosha appears to be in much better health than when he was heir to the throne, although he still suffers from the stiffness of the right leg which he acquired in a mysterious accident. His color is better than it was and he appears to have recovered to some extent from the slow poisoning to which Rasputin subjected him as a means of maintaining his influence over the czar and czarina.

While the younger members of the Romanoff family are reasonably happy, there is no doubt that the former czar and czarina are intensely miserable. They are tormented by the loss of their power and splendor and the great heritage that had been handed down to them from generations of famous ancestors. While the former czarina is filled with rage against those who have brought her to the present condition, Nicholas shows only melancholy.

Though occasionally downcast, she has a more aggressive and restless character than her husband. She bustles herself in the household work, probably in order to save herself from going mad over her troubles. She rises at eight o'clock in the morning, makes a brief toilet and puts on a kitchen dress. Then she goes into the kitchen, looks over the provisions and plans the meals for the day. She made all her jars of jelly and jam for last winter. The former czarina prides herself on her skill in making all kinds of cake and pastry. Pathetically she hopes that the fallen czar will be cheered by a cake baked by her own imperial hands. But all her efforts are in vain. Her husband has been gradually losing his appetite.

The exiled czarina is most saddened by the thought that she has lost all the historic crown jewels of Russia, representing a value of millions of dollars. Many of these which she was forced to leave behind in the palace at Tsarskoe-Selo now adorn the wives and sweethearts of leading socialists and bolshevik politicians. One thought consoles her; that she sent away a large part of her personal jewels to Darmstadt, Germany just before the revolution broke out.

It was in last November that the government permitted the exiled czar and his family to make their residence in the monastery near Tobolsk, where they are now living under the supervision of the clergy and local police, most of the guards having been withdrawn. The routine of their daily life in the monastery is virtually the same as it was in the former governor's house, only the atmosphere is more religious and they are secluded from the curious eyes of the outside world.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

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Moody Bible Institute of Chicago.)  
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LESSON FOR MAY 19

JESUS THE DIVINE SERVANT EXERCISING KINGLY AUTHORITY.

LESSON TEXT—Mark 11:1-11.  
GOLDEN TEXT—All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth.—Matthew 28:18.

DEVOTIONAL READINGS—Revelation 5:9-14; 7:9-12.

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL FOR TEACHERS—Matthew 21:12-17; Luke 19:15; 20:8; compare John 2:13-17; John 12:12-15.

PRIMARY TOPIC—Jesus riding into the city.

LESSON MATERIAL—Mark 11:1-11.  
MEMORY VERSE—Hosanna; blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.—Mark 11:9.

JUNIOR TOPIC—The King entering the capital city.  
LESSON MATERIAL—Mark 11:1-11.  
INTERMEDIATE TOPIC—Jesus and the temple.

LESSON TEXT—Mark 11:15-19; compare Luke 2:22-25; John 2:13-17.

For WHITSUN-DAY LESSON: LESSON TEXT—John 6:10-15.  
GOLDEN TEXT—He shall guide you into all the truth.—John 16:13.

I. Jesus Officially Presented to the Jewish Nation as King (vv. 1-11). This should not be designated the "triumphal entry," for it was only in outward appearance. The shouts were empty and meaningless. It was the promised King publicly offering himself to the nation.

1. The preparation (vv. 1-6).  
(1) Two disciples sent for the ass (vv. 1-3).

He told them just where to go to find it, and how to answer the owner's inquiry. This shows how perfectly the Lord knows our ways. His matchless gaze beholds all that we think or do, by day or night. It also shows that God uses unlikely and insignificant things in the accomplishment of his purposes. The providing of this animal was the working out of the Divine plan according to Christ's foreknowledge.

(2) Obedience of the disciples (vv. 4-6).

Without asking why, they go at his bidding. The command may have seemed strange and unreasonable, but they rendered explicit obedience. The true disciple will render full and glad obedience, no matter how strange or unreasonable the command may seem.

2. The entry into the city of Jerusalem (vv. 7-10).

(1) The disciples put their garments upon the ass and set the Lord upon it (v. 7).

This act showed their recognition of him as their king (2 Kings 9:13).

(2) The multitude.  
Some spread their garments in the way; others who had no garments to spare, cut down branches and strewed them in the way, which was just as acceptable unto him. To give what we have and do what we can, is all that the Lord demands of us. This entry was in fulfillment of a prophecy uttered some five hundred years before (Zech. 9:9).

(3) The Lord's action (v. 10).

Upon entering the Temple, he looked around upon all things; but as it was eventide he withdrew to Bethany with the twelve.

II. Jesus Exercising His Royal Authority (vv. 12-19). 1. The barren fig tree cursed (vv. 12-14). The fig tree is typical of the Jewish nation. The fruit normally appears on the fig tree ahead of the leaves. The presence of leaves is the assurance of fruit. This was an acted parable of the Lord's judgment on Israel for pretension of being the chosen people without the fruits thereof. It indicated the spiritual state of the Jews.

2. The Temple cleansed (vv. 15-19). For the various sacrifices in the Temple, many oxen, sheep and doves were needed. Many persons came from the distant parts of the land; therefore it was impracticable for them to bring their sacrifices with them, so they brought money and bought the animals needed. This privilege the law had granted to them (Deut. 14:24-26), for the exchange was necessary. When evil men used it as an opportunity for gain, it became an offense before God. It defiled his house. He made himself a scourge of cords, and drove out the money changers, overthrowing their tables and pouring out their money. By this act he declared himself to be the Lord of the Temple and one with God. That which God intended to be a house of prayer for all nations was being made a "den of thieves."

III. Jesus' Authority Challenged (vv. 27-33). They challenged him to show by what authority he accepted the honors of the Messiah, and who gave him the authority to cast out the money-changers. This placed Jesus in a dilemma. He responded by a question which placed them in a counter-dilemma.

Since John was his forerunner, the divinity of his mission rested upon that of John. They were powerless to discredit John, because the people accepted John as such. If they had accepted John's message, they would have been prepared to accept him. They cowardly confessed that they did not know. The agnostic is always a coward. These rulers had no affection for Jesus, so they rejected him and sought to destroy him. It is the same today. The reason men reject Jesus is not because of intellectual difficulties, but because of the lack of affection for him.

## WHAT CAN WE DO?

Red Cross Clippings is the title of a small paper published in Philadelphia, to help make the work of the Pennsylvania division efficient and further the usefulness of the American Red Cross in war and civilian relief.

Here are two intensely interesting items from its publication of March 30, which will make every member of the American Red Cross proud of this marvelous organization and more anxious than ever to work for it:

### Home Service Grows.

"Like young David Copperfield, home service has 'grewed out o' knowledge' since the first of the year. At the end of January, home service sections in the Pennsylvania division were giving help of one kind and another to more than 2,000 soldiers' and sailors' families, and at the end of February the number of families had increased to 4,500.

"This increase in numbers is, in a way, a measure of the increase of confidence in the ability of the Red Cross to help solve family problems, and it also shows that the Red Cross is proving worthy of the confidence and reliance that soldiers and their families place in them. The following letter to the division director of civilian relief shows how Red Cross home service workers are helping to keep up the spirit of the men in the army:

"Just a line to let you know that I received your letter, notifying me that the Red Cross would look after my wife and children, which takes a load off my shoulders and makes me look at my duties and the future with a brighter eye, eager to strike the foe and win, knowing that no matter what happens my family will not suffer through my not waiting to be called. If I had been single I would have been in it at the start, but I guess there's lots of fun yet. So thanking you again for the promptness you have shown, I will close with best wishes to you and the work you have undertaken.

"Sincerely yours,  
"PRIVATE ROBERT DUNCAN.  
A Worried Soldier is a Poor Soldier.  
"Soldiers have bodies that get cold; therefore they need sweaters; they get hurt or sick, therefore they need surgical dressings; but they have also minds and hearts that center on the folks back home; they become anxious and discouraged about the welfare of wives, children, mothers, brothers, sisters. A worried soldier is a poor soldier," says General Pershing. The Red Cross can help to keep up the morale of the men by protecting and aiding their families."

## Afternoon Frocks of Two Materials



The path of designers, who are always looking for something new and beautiful, has been made much easier than usual this season. Contributions of two materials, or two kinds of one material, in a single garment account for it. The spring and summer styles were inaugurated by displays that featured these contributions and we have benefited by them in several ways—in inexpensive and original frocks that are attractive, and in remodeled dresses that double the length of service of at least one of the fabrics used in them. The styles never favored the remodeling of frocks more than they do now.

Usually a sheer material like chiffon cloth, georgette crepe, voile or net is made up with a heavier goods and the refinement of these sheer fabrics lends tone to others as familiar and commonplace as serge or gingham. This makes them an immensely valuable resource of the professional and the home dressmaker. There is no end to the ways in which materials have been combined in coats and frocks. Voile and gingham, georgette and satin, chiffon cloth and light woollens have proved so successful that they promise a long reign of combinations in the realm of fashions.

The afternoon gown pictured here shows how well suited to each other satin and georgette are in fashioning a lovely and simple frock. One is as important as the other in the design; half the skirt is of satin and half of crepe and their honors are even in the bodice also. The sleeves are of crepe with deep cuffs of satin. Wherever the two materials are brought together they are joined by a band of embroidery in a scroll and flower pattern, made with long, quickly placed stitches of heavy embroidery silk. No dress could present fewer difficulties to the home dressmaker. When gingham and fine cotton voile are used together, hemstitching, very narrow crepe or cluny lace, or tating are effective for joining them. There is much joy in a made-over frock that has lost all trace of "last year" in its remodeling, and the styles favor the thrifty-minded who undertake to make the best of them.

Julia Bottomley

### Glove Extravagance.

There are dress economists who believe the resurrection of the short sleeve forecasts a saving of material. Perhaps. But, on the other hand, there are any number of women who will fight shy of the coquettish little sleeve that terminates its brief career somewhere between elbow and shoulder. To them it means the addition of long gloves or the adoption of a gimpie with net, lace or organdie under sleeve showing below the gown sleeve. And gloves cannot be put in the category of reasonable adjuncts—no, not even if one is willing to forego kid, and substitute silk or cotton.

### Hats of Fabric.

Fabrics are greatly used by the milliners, and whole hats, crowns and brims are fashioned of georgette crepe, chiffon, satin, tulle or whatever the designer happens to fancy. Georgette and crepe de chine are, perhaps, more used than any of the other materials, always excepting nets and laces, and a hat entirely covered with crepe and showing straw only in the facing of the brim is sometimes untrimmed, save for a drapery and a knot of the crepe. Lovely colored silks are used for the draped toques which are so much in vogue.

### Taffeta and Satin.

In the moderate-priced frocks everywhere the demand for taffeta persists, but in high-priced gowns satin seems to have the greater popularity.

### Georgette Crepe Combinations.

Many afternoon gowns are seen with taffeta and georgette crepe combinations. Satins are more exclusive.